



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Early Philadelphia, Its People, Life and Progress. By Horace Mather Lippincott, joint author of "The Colonial Homes of Philadelphia and Its Neighborhood." With a photogravure frontispiece by Charles H. Stephens and 119 illustrations from photographs and prints. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1917. Pp. 340.

The volume might fairly be styled a Study in Origins. Its interest for the general reader will lie in the fact that these origins do not concern merely one great American city and its institutions but as well the civic growth and institutional development of the American Colonies. Much of this activity had its first beginnings in Philadelphia, which thus became a pioneer for cities older or younger than itself. And in some instances where the City cannot claim priority, it can "point with pride" to things still extant which have the distinction of being "the oldest" in our American history. Elizabeth Pennell had briefly summarized this greatness of Philadelphia in her declaration that the City "had worked, and still worked, and worked so well as to be the first to have given America much that is best and most vital in the country—the first to show the right way with its schools and hospitals and libraries and newspapers and galleries and museums, the leader in the fight for liberty of conscience, the scene of the first Colonial Congress and the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Centennial Exposition to commemorate it, a pioneer in science and industry and manufacture—a town upon which all the others in the land could not do better than model themselves—while all the time it maintained its fine air of calm that perplexes the stranger and misleads the native" (*Our Philadelphia*, pp. 266-7). We read such a declaration as this, however, with the tugging fear that it is only a series of brilliant generalities based rather on a pardonable civic pride than on cold historical facts, although one specific instance is given (p. 253) of priority, in the statement that Philadelphia "had been the first American town to publish a daily paper" and that this paper "set an example for all America."

Agnes Repplier, in her *Philadelphia, the Place and the People*, had previously furnished her readers with other specific instances of "first" or "oldest." Thus it was a Philadelphia playhouse that produced "the first American play ever publicly acted in

the colonies" (p. 75); and the Philadelphia Academy of the Natural Sciences is "the oldest institution of its kind in America" (p. 81); and it was in Philadelphia that Franklin "invented the stove which warmed nearly every parlour in town . . . invented the lightning-rod . . . organized the fire companies . . ." (p. 87); and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts is "the oldest institution of its kind in the United States" (p. 376); and the "Fishing Company . . . is the oldest club of its kind in the United States" (p. 387). But the City has still other kinds of preëminence, for its University has "an unequalled institute of anatomy" (p. 380), and its Fairmount Park "is the largest in the United States, and the most beautiful in the world" (p. 382). One more quotation will probably exhaust the priorities mentioned in Agnes Repplier's volume without, it is hoped, exhausting the patience of the reader. Of Philadelphia (now personified) we read: "She it was, among American cities, who printed the first daily newspaper, and the first magazine. She established the first circulating library, the first corporate bank, and the first medical college. She laid the keel of the first American warship, and unfurled the first American flag. She was the home of the first National Congress, and of the first Supreme Court of the United States. Finally, she organized the first World's Fair that this country had ever seen, no facile task, as those who bore a part in it can testify" (p. 368).

Miss Repplier's treatment of the origins enters into greater detail than that of Mrs. Pennell, but is summary nevertheless. Mr. Lippincott undertakes quite a different task. His "first" and "oldests" are generally accorded separate chapters in which the origin is pointed out and the development down to the present day is described. He justifies the title of the volume by first of all picturing "Early Philadelphia" topographically and socially and then categorizing its early activities and showing their "progress." His constant interest in the personalities of the Quaker City results in frequently-recurring and extensive lists of names of those who were associated with the City's enterprises. Nowhere do we find a formal posing of the famous question, "What is a Biddle?" But the book will answer that question and a hundred similar ones. It also answers the query, "What is a Wistar Party?" It is an old, old institution of Philadelphia;

but the present reviewer would have been glad to have the answer when he received a perplexing invitation to a "Wistar Party" but a few months ago. For reasons like these, the book will doubtless offer many an arid page to all but Philadelphians. To these latter, however, its minute descriptions of interesting spots in the City, its care in localizing certain old colonial houses (many of which are still extant), its genial story of early customs and their modern survivals, and its really unpretentious, albeit apparently assertive, claims for the origins, can hardly be other than entertaining.

Entertaining—but instructive as well. For few Philadelphians really know their city, despite the large literature of history and description devoted thereto. To pick up a work like that of Mr. Lippincott is to embark on a voyage of discovery. And to find Philadelphia is to love it. The voyage may not prove entirely pleasant for readers who have not the enviable distinction of living or having been born in the City, but they will discover many things which they ought to be glad to know. For it is a City of American Origins. And so we return whence we set out—to call attention briefly to the "first" and the "oldest" things mentioned in the volume. Meanwhile, the reader should be cautioned not to indulge the natural surmise that pretentiousness, which is the very opposite of the City's own prevailing sentiment, characterizes the volume. He will nowhere find a glowing summary of the City's great achievements. Even the eight columns of the Index will not furnish a single reference to "first" or "oldest" or "origin." Only patient search will reveal items like the following (to which it is therefore desirable to attach page-references):

"The English Bible was first published in America at Philadelphia" (p. 43), "the first and greatest medical school in America" (p. 170), "the oldest institution dedicated to the fine arts in the United States" (p. 185), "the oldest institution (viz., the Philadelphia Academy of the Natural Sciences) of its kind in America" (p. 189), "so began pharmaceutical education and degrees in the western hemisphere" (p. 193), "the first exhibition of manufacturers in America . . . and the first electrical exhibition" (p. 196), "the first bank chartered on the continent" (p. 227), "the first Trust Company in the United States" (p.

234), "the oldest Fire Insurance Company in America, but also one of the strongest active Fire Insurance Companies in the world" (p. 244), "the first Savings Fund Society in America" (p. 264); and the franchise granted in 1876 by the Governor of Pennsylvania to a Title Insurance Company "was the first ever granted by any governmental authority in the world" (p. 267).

We are thus brought down to quite modern times—the year of the Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia. What has been here condensed into a few phrases forms the basis for many an instructive chapter. If the story ended here, the author would be justified in his declaration that the City "is noted for its organizing spirit. If the Philadelphian has anything to do or a pet idea to promulgate he immediately sets to work to found a Society for that specific purpose, chooses officers and adopts a constitution" (p. 197). But the tale is not fully told. The City is proud to "harbour the oldest business concern in America" (p. 268), while the printing business founded by Franklin in 1728 "has continued without a break and still bears the name of its originator" (p. 272). How shall we find space for all the origins? We read further of "the first ships for the American Navy" (p. 276), the first steamboat (p. 277), "the oldest social organization in the English speaking world" (p. 303), the first asylum for the insane established entirely for their care (p. 309), "the hospital department of the Almshouse . . . the first in the United States" (p. 313), a separate dispensary for the poor opened in 1786 as the "oldest in the United States" (p. 319), the first volunteer organization to fight the claims of the British Government (p. 285), the first protest against slavery (p. 321), the first organization established for the abolition of slavery (p. 322), the First Continental Congress (p. 333), "the oldest life insurance company in the United States" (p. 329), the first game of cricket (p. 222), the first cricket club (p. 223), the first intercollegiate game of cricket (p. 223) and the first intercollegiate cricket club (p. 225).

The City might well urge a modest claim to be first in peace, first in war. But she has reason to fear her place is not first in the hearts of her sister-cities, for she has long been the butt for ridicule as a "slow town." We should not quarrel with the present volume, even if it seems to challenge by implication such older

cities as New York or Boston. We may rather feel that it challenges the attention of the civic historian and the sociologist, for very much of the City's olden spirit of organization has survived the changes of two centuries and is unobtrusively energizing its present manifold activities.

A very brief but kindly account is given of Catholicity in Philadelphia (p. 76), but a curious *post hoc ergo propter hoc* implication appears (p. 20) in the statement that the early settlers were "free from mediaeval dogmas and far advanced in the line of the Reformation" and that as nearly all were Quakers ("the most advanced sect"), "the effect of their liberalism on the growth of Pennsylvania was marked." In addition to the text, the volume contains 108 pages of inserted pictorial illustrations.

My Story: Being the Memoirs of Benedict Arnold, Late Major-General in the Continental Army and Brigadier-General in that of His Britannic Majesty. By Frederic J. Stimson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1917. Portraits and a map. Pp. 622.

The author of this interesting and instructive book has already worked successfully in the field of fiction, but his present story is by no means a creation of fancy, for it is largely constructed of the materials of history. In the fascinating pages of those who describe the war for American independence it may be doubted whether any among the multitude of characters encountered by the reader possessed so many elements of the literatesque as did Benedict Arnold. One thinks of *The Rivals*, in which Hamilton and Burr are the principals, of *The Conqueror*, Miss Atherton's enthusiastic biography of Hamilton, of the *Winning of the West*, which records the deeds of George Rogers Clark, and of many other books whose heroes adorn historic tales.

But the difficult march through the Drowned Lands, one of the most glorious achievements of the Revolution, an exploit well described by Roosevelt, had its fellow in the dangers of the Dead River and the boiling Chaudiere and that is but a single incident in the career of Arnold. Indeed, with the exception of Beaumarchais, the brilliant French dramatist, a man of more varied experience and of greater gifts than the American soldier, to the